

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OC-06 CCO-00 EUR-25 FBO-01 SS-20 NSC-10 /102 R

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R 022204Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA ASMARA

CINCUSNAVEUR

INFO COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216709

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MARR,PFOR, ET, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-ETHIOPIAN COMMISSION OF PHASE-DOWN OF
KAGNEW STATION

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 201121

(B) ASMARA 0777

(C) ASMARA 0860

(D) ADDIS 12350

(E) ASMARA 0859

(F) STATE 206555

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JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

1. FOLLOWING PROVIDES GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES FOR
U.S. ROLE ON COMMISSION AND PROPOSES AGENDA ITEMS AND

RESPONDS TO SUGGESTIONS RAISED REFS (C) AND (D).

2. WE CONCUR IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION IN ADDIS AND WORKING GROUP IN ASMARA. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR AMBASSADOR OR DCM TO OPEN INITIAL MEETING OF WORKING GROUP IN ASMARA, TO ATTEND SUCH FUTURE MEETINGS AS MAY SEEM DESIRABLE ON AD HOC BASIS, AND GENERALLY TO KEEP CURRENTLY INFORMED OF WORKING GROUP'S ACTIVITIES. PROBLEMS REQUIRING RESOLUTION AT HIGHER LEVEL COULD BE REFERRED TO ADDIS AND, AS APPROPRIATE, TO WASHINGTON. WE PREFER THAT CMAAG AND MAAG NOT RPT NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN US-IEG COMMISSION ON KAGNEW PHASE-DOWN BECAUSE OF OUR LONG-STANDING PRACTICE OF NOT LINKING MAAG OR MAP WITH KAGNEW OPERATION AND IN ORDER AVOID POSSIBLE DIMINISHED EFFECTIVENESS OF MAAG RESULTING FROM ANY ETHIOPIAN DISSAISFACTION WITH PHASE-DOWN.

3. US OBJECTIVE IS TO ESTABLISH MEANS AND PROCEDURES FOR EXPEDITIOUS AND ORDERLY KAGNEW PHASE-DOWN WHICH WILL BE LEAST DISRUPTIVE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH IEG AND PROMOTE GOOD WILL IN ASMARA AREA. THESE OBJECTIVES TO A LARGE EXTENT WILL DEPEND ON DEVELOPING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS ON A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS REQUIRING IEG COOPERATION, INCLUDING FOLLOWING:

A. CONTINUATION OF CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES TO FACILITATE WITHDRAWAL OF APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT, E.G., INSPECTIONS, CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION, PACKING AND SHIPPING, ETC.

B. ARRANGEMENTS FOR TURNING OVER PHYSICAL PLANT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT IEG OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS (WHAT THEY INTEND TO DO WITH FACILITIES, HOW SOON THEY CAN TAKE OVER THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, HOW THE U.S. CAN TAILOR ITS PLANS TO COMPLEMENT THOSE OF IEG).

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C. AGREED SECURITY MEASURES WHEN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ACCESS TO FACILITIES/PROPERTY REVERTS TO IEG CONTROL ASSUME ADDITIONAL IMPORTANCE IN LIGHT OF REF (B). OUR POLICY ON DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY WILL BE FLEXIBLE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF U.S. LAW. WE WOULD HOPE TO BE AS REASONABLE IN THIS REGARD AS WE CAN, CONSISTENT WITH LEGAL RESTRICTIONS, IN LEAVING REQUIRED EQUIPMENT IN BUILDINGS WITHOUT COST TO IEG OR, WHEN THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE, IN SELLING EQUIPMENT TO IEG.

D. PROCEDURES ON MATTERS INVOLVING POSSIBLE U.S. PECUNIARY RESPONSIBILITY, E.G., CLAIMS, PROPERTY, LEASES, CONTRACTS AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES. WE WILL BE PREPARED TO

SETTLE VALID AND DOCUMENTED CLAIMS, BUT MUST AVOID CREATING IMPRESSION OF OPEN INVITATION FOR WHOLESALE REVIEW OF PAST KAGNEW LABOR AND RENTAL PRACTICES. FYI - IEG ASSISTANCE IN THIS REGARD MIGHT BE CONSIDERATION FOR TRANSFER OF USG PROPERTY TO IEG UNDER 3(B) AND 3(C) ABOVE. END FYI.

4. THE FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED AS AGENDA ITEMS OF INITIAL MEETINGS:

A. ESTABLISHMENT OF BASE DATE FOR NOTICE BY U.S. OF TERMINATION OF REAL ESTATE LEASES. WE BELIEVE THIS DATE SHOULD BE 31 DECEMBER 1973. THIS WOULD CONTINUE ANNUAL RENT AT PRESENT LEVEL UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 1974, EVEN THOUGH IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT SOME TRACTS WILL BE RETURNED BY 31 DECEMBER 1973.

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF DATE AND METHOD FOR RENEGOTIATION OF REAL ESTATE LEASES AND ANNUAL RENT APPLICABLE TO TRACT E. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT RESIDUAL FUNCTIONS WILL REQUIRE RETENTION OF TRACTS TX, B, D, AND A PORTION OF TRACT E. DEFINITION OF PORTION OF TRACT E THAT WILL BE REQUIRED PROBABLY WILL NOT BE MADE UNTIL EARLY 74.

C. DISPOSITION OF TRACTS A, F AND H. USG WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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READY TO TRANSFER THESE TRACTS TO IEG-DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES ABOUT 31 DECEMBER 1973. USG-OWNED HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS NOW IN HOUSES AT TRACT A MAY BE LEFT IN PLACE IF USG DETERMINES THAT IT WOULD BE MORE ECONOMIC TO DO SO. NAVY WILL REMOVE MOST COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AT TRACTS F AND H, BUT WILL NOT DISMANTLE ANTENNA FIELDS AT EITHER TRACT. EXCEPT FOR POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF MOBILE GENERATOR AT TRACT F AND GENERATOR AT TRACT H, EXISTING WIRES, PIPELINES, ETC. AT BOTH TRACTS WILL BE LEFT AT NO COST TO IEG. NAVY INTENDS DISCUSS WITH CONTRACTOR MERITS AND COSTS OF CONTINUING OPERATE POWER PLANT AND NECESSARY UTILITIES AT TRACT A THAT COULD IN TURN BE SOLD TO IEG.

D. MEDICAL FACILITIES. USG WILLING TO TRANSFER COMPLETE MEDICAL AND DENTAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING BUILDINGS, INSTALLED AND PORTABLE FURNISHINGS AND PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT IF IEG DESIRES TO CONTINUE OPERATING FACILITIES, EITHER ITSELF OR THROUGH AN IEG-SELECTED AGENCY. FACILITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSFER 30 JUNE 74. HOWEVER, USG WILLING TO CONSIDER EARLIER TRANSFER PROVIDING US MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS CAN CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MEDICAL/DENTAL CARE WITHOUT COST TO USG OR INDIVIDUALS UNTIL DEPARTURE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED IF REFTEL (D):

(A) RESIDUAL ACTIVITIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE COVERED UNDER THE 1953 AGREEMENT, SINCE THE PHASE-DOWN

DOES NOT ABROGATE OUR RIGHTS UNDER THE AGREEMENT. THE PHASE-DOWN IS BEING CARRIED OUT UNDER THE 1955 LEASING ARRANGEMENT FOR THE VARIOUS TRACTS.

(B) INASMUCH AS THERE IS NO CHANGE, OTHER THAN THAT WHICH RESULTS FROM DELETION OF TRACTS OF LAND UNDER WHICH IEG IS PROVIDING USG FACILITY RIGHTS, RATIONALE FOR EXEMPTING ETHIOPIA 10 PERCENT DEPOSITS REMAINS UNCHANGED AT THIS TIME. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE MILAID IS SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS EACH YEAR FROM CONGRESS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE SHOULD AVOID LINKING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TWO IN OUR DISCUSSION WITH IEG.

(C) WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT MAAG INSTALLATIONS EMBASSY IS REFERRING TO AND REQUEST FURTHER INFO FROM EMBASSY.

6. CONGEN SHOULD MODIFY PROPOSED NOTE (PARA 1 REFTEL (C) TO CONFORM TO THE ABOVE FOR FORWARDING TO IEG.

7. WE WILL RESPOND TO REFTEL (E) AFTER DOD AND STATE HAVE MET WITH DR. WALSH. YOU MAY NOTE IN PARA 4(B) ABOVE DOD PLANS FOR TRACT E.

8. REF PARA (C) OF REF (D): IN ADDITION TO LEGAL COUNSEL WASHINGTON PREPARED TO SUPPLY, NAVY LAWYER NOW AT KAGNEW AVAILABLE TO GIVE EMBASSY SUCH LEGAL ASSISTANCE AS REQUIRED. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE216709
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NAVY:RADM NAGLER; OASD/ISA-MR. BADER:JR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731167/abqcejmd.tel
Line Count: 203
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 201121 (B) ASMARA 0777 (C) ASMARA 0860 (D) ADDIS 12350 (E) ASMARA 0859 (F) STATE 206555
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.-ETHIOPIAN COMMISSION OF PHASE-DOWN OF KAGNEW STATION
TAGS: MARR, ET, US
To: ADDIS ABABA
ASMARA
NAVCOMMSTA ASMARA
CINCUSNAVEUR INFO COMNAVTELCOM
CNO
USCINCEUR
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005